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NEWS RELEASE

April 23, 2009

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UM DRAMA/DANCE TO PRESENT ANNUAL SPRING DANCE CONCERT

MISSOULA—

The University of Montana Department of Drama/Dance will offer its year-end Spring Dance Concert nightly Wednesday through Saturday, May 6-9. Performances begin at 7:30 p.m. in the Performing Arts and Radio/Television Center's Montana Theatre on the UM campus. Tickets are \$18 for general admission and \$14 for students and seniors.

Each performance will showcase nine exceptional pieces of choreography by UM dance program students and faculty. The pieces represent a wide range of styles within the contemporary dance idiom, from breathtaking athletic floor work to ballet that blends handstands with pirouettes.

Highlights of the program include:

- Faculty member Heidi Jones Eggert's energetic and engaging "Let's Go." This modern funk piece for 11 dancers displays some of Assistant Professor Eggert's athletic contemporary dance set to a blend of electronic, hip-hop and funk music.
- Associate Professor Michele Antonioli's "Ballet in Occasional Spaces." This gorgeous piece provides a contemporary twist to traditional classic ballet.

- “Two,” choreographed by Associate Professor Nicole Bradley Browning, is a series of fierce duets, trios and quartets displaying unique and daring partnering with stunning athletic dance.
- “Alpha,” a piece for five men, is a collaboration between senior dance major Charissa Bowditch and Jen Stearns DeLong. When these two team up, expect humor and a sophisticated blend of gesture and dynamic partnering.
- A boisterous, dynamic dance version of Animal Planet programming, featuring awkward “creatures” wearing housedresses while dancing to the music of Kid Koala. This wild romp is choreographed by senior dance major Ashley Griffith.
- Senior dance major Charissa Bowditch’s thought-provoking “Homefront.” Her work is a powerful exploration of the emotional, physical and mental upheaval of war from the perspective of those left behind. “Homefront” was one of three dances selected to represent UM at the American College Dance Festival Northwest Regional Conference. After a first round of adjudication, “Homefront” was one of 11 selected from nearly 50 dance pieces that received the honor of inclusion in the conference’s prestigious Gala Concert.
- Mix up a bit of dance theatre, a bit of Dilbert and a dash of “The Office,” and you begin to describe Stephen Teran’s dark and hilarious dance, “Bitch.”

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